

Message Text

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UNCLAS STATE 313747 TOSEC 340142

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TAGS: SOPN, OVIP (KISSINGER)

SUBJECT: PRESS MATERIAL

1. HERewith FULL TEXT BALTIMORE SUN EDITORIAL THURSDAY
DECEMBER 30 HEADED "CHINA'S COMING PURGE.,

2. IT SEEMS THERE WERE MORE THAN FOUR IN THE INFAMOUS
GANG OF FOUR AFTER ALL. AND THEY ARE GOING TO BE MADE TO
HUMBLE THEMSELVES OR QUIT THE PARTY IN DISGRACE.

3. WHEN CHAIRMAN HUA KUO-FENG WAS GATHERING CONTROL OF
THE CHINESE COMMUNIST PARTY AFTER THE DEATH OF MAO TSE-
TUNG, IT WAS BRILLIANT TO CALL HIS ENEMIES A "GANG OF
FOUR," RATHER THAN SOME BROADER LABEL WITH WHICH TOO MANY
PEOPLE MIGHT IDENTIFY THEMSELVES AND FEEL THREATENED. NOW
THAT HIS POWER IS UNQUESTIONED, CHAIRMAN HUA HAS MENTIONED
A FIFTH AND SIXTH NAME AND PROMISED "A MOVEMENT OF PARTY
CONSOLIDATION AND RECTIFICATION." COUNSELING AGAINST THE
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MORE SAVAGE MODEL OF A PURGE, HE SAID THAT CHIANG CHING'S
FOLLOWERS ARE STILL WELCOME "ONCE THEY MAKE A CLEAN BREAST
OF THEIR PART IN THE CONSPIRACY." SELF-CRITICISM IS A
USEFUL INSTRUMENT OF CONTROL. IT IS GOOD FOR THE SOUL,
ESPECIALLY OF THOSE WHO DO NOT HAVE TO DO IT.

4. THE WORST SINS ATTRIBUTED TO THE GANG OF FOUR HAVE MOVED OFF THE WALL POSTERS AND ONTO THE PAGES OF PEOPLE'S DAILY AND INTO THE DEFINITIVE POLICY SPEECH SATURDAY NIGHT BY CHAIRMAN HUA. THEIR LANGUAGE IS TURNED AROUND AGAINST THEM. THEY WERE ONLY PSEUDO-LEFTISTS, ACTUALLY ULTRA-RIGHTISTS, AND THEY WOULD HAVE OPENED THE DOOR TO CIVIL WAR, CAPITALISM AND SOVIET AND AMERICAN INTERVENTION. THEY WERE RESPONSIBLE FOR VIOLENT DISORDER, SUCH AS THAT NEWLY REPORTED FROM THE CITY OF PAOTING. IT WAS CLEARLY MORE THAN FOUR PEOPLE COULD HAVE DONE AND THEY MUST HAVE HAD MANY ACCOMPLICES. THERE MAY BE MORE DISORDERS AS LOCAL OFFICIALS USE THE „RECTIFICATION" CAMPAIGN TO EVEN OLD SCORES AND UNDO OLD RECTIFICATIONS.

5. THE PARALLEL TO GAMES PLAYED BY INS AGAINST OUTS IN MORE CONVENTIONAL POLITICS IS STARTLING. THE GANG OF FOUR IS TERRIBLY USEFUL. WHATEVER'S WRONG IS ITS FAULT. AS TIME MOVES ON AND CHAIRMAN HUA COMES TO GRIPS WITH CHOU EN-LAI'S PLAN TO MODERNIZE CHINA BY THE YEAR 2000, HE MAY COME TO MISS CHIANG CHING AND HER NOTORIOUS GANG. FOR WHAT GOES WRONG HENCEFORTH CANNOT BE HER DOING. OF COURSE, IT MAY BE DISCOVERED TO BE THE WORK OF SECRET FOLLOWERS, WHO CAN BE EXPOSED IN THE FUTURE AS HAVING ESCAPED THE COMING PURGE. (END TEXT.)
ROBINSON

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